

Principals and SICs: How to Work Together Effectively



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Who is this guy?



- Principal in Lexington 1 - 3 years at White Knoll Elementary
- Principal in Spartanburg 7 - 4 years at Jesse Boyd Elementary
- Principal in Beaufort - 1 year at Shanklin Elementary
- Teacher, AP and interim principal in Greenville - 9 years
- Been a part of SICs since 1999



SIC Experiences

- Teacher rep my first two years teaching
- Administrator in charge my 3rd year
- AP - In charge of SIC
 - Modified format from “Announcements by principal and Guidance Counselor” to a model that meets SIC standards - action oriented team
- Principal in Beaufort - implemented same model -
 - major goal was the implementation of school uniforms
- Spartanburg - had to modify meeting format to acceptable action team
 - major focus was the implementation of a Healthy Schools initiative
- Lexington - implemented SIC Model that includes action teams as group did not meet at all
 - Focus on implementing mentoring program and WatchDOGS program



What did each school have in common?
With some work from administration, a strong
parent advocate - or group of parents - was
identified and given the opportunity to lead the
SIC!



What does the research say?

- The Principal is the gatekeeper and controls all decision making in the school.
- Principal needs to guide the SIC, but allow the Chair to lead the SIC.
- In one study of South Carolina SICs, SIC members who reported feeling relatively ineffective attributed this most often to principals who either dominated the SIC or did not adequately support its efforts.
- Some principals do not find the "burden" of leading an SIC worth the effort.



How can Principals do better?

- Provide councils with school information: test data, school renewal plan, survey data
- Secure resources and services that are needed to accomplish goals
- Facilitate disagreements within meetings to show how growth can come out of this
- Guide without being controlling
- Work hard to find the parent/community advocate to lead the team
- Delegate responsibilities to the council
- Recognize the benefits of: increased engagement, increased resources, increased support for initiatives, increased advocates for the school

How can district contacts support schools?

- Share the resources at sic.sc.gov during annual training for all schools
- Compile a list of successful school programs implemented by SICs across the state and share benefits with schools (Riley Award Case Statements)
- Ask schools what they need to be more successful
- Publicize the successes of SICs
- Be sure to follow up with schools to meet deadlines: Member lists, Report to the Community

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